



Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Niagara County, NY

BACKGROUND

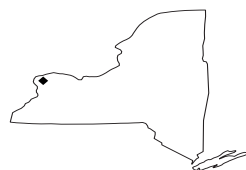
EPA awarded Niagara County supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Niagara County encompasses 20 municipalities in northwestern New York. A countywide inventory of sites that are likely to have environmental contamination found over 720 potential brownfields. Many of these sites are vacant or underused industrial sites that are a legacy of the declining steel, aircraft, chemical, ceramics, and paper manufacturing that once supported the local economy. Out-migration and job loss have severely depressed the local economy. Unemployment and per capita income in the county are far behind state averages.

During the original Pilot, Niagara County inventoried its brownfields and identified 31 sites with strong reuse potential. Phase I and II environmental assessments were conducted at five of these sites and community interest and participation in brownfields redevelopment has grown. Niagara County would like to build on earlier Pilot strategies that include community participation and education to further sustainable development and environmental justice goals around brownfields areas. Supplemental funding will ensure the long-term maintenance of the brownfields program and strengthen the collaborative work already begun under the initial Pilot.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Supplemental funding will be used to conduct environmental assessments on three sites. Potential target sites include a felt factory along Eighteenmile Creek in the Town of Newfane; a former paper mill on Tonawanda Island; several sites in the mill district along Eighteenmile Creek in a low-income community of Lockport; and a few sites along the Niagara River in the Town of Wheatfield. Declining industries and unattended environmental problems have burdened communities with a large number

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Niagara County, New
York*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 150,000

Profile: Supplemental assistance will be used to conduct assessments at three additional sites and continue implementation of community involvement plans.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

of underused and abandoned industrial sites along Eighteenmile Creek. The county plans to continue collaboration with government, property owners, citizens, and the private sector to clean up and redevelop brownfields and conduct additional environmental assessments at sites not previously targeted.

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Continuing to work closely with the Brownfields Working Group, municipal governments, and other stakeholders on brownfields issues with emphasis on environmental justice and sustainable development;
- Implementing the community involvement plan developed during the original Pilot for target areas;
- Conducting Phase I and II environmental assessments for three additional sites to be determined; and
- Identifying cleanup options and reuse plans for specific sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.